

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048666
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 /108 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:JWHITING:AB

APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST

-----027855 242247Z /15

O 242141Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, US, ET, SO

SUBJECT: HORN BRIEFING BY DR. BRZEZINSKI

AT THE FEBRUARY 24 WHITE HOUSE NOON DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS BRZEZINSKI GAVE A BRIEFING, MUCH OF WHICH DEALT WITH THE HORN OF AFRICA. FOLLOWING ARE UNOFFICIAL ON THE RECORD EXCERPTS ON THIS SUBJECT:

Q: WILL THE SUBJECT OF CUBANS IN AFRICA BE DISCUSSED (WITH THE NIGERIANS)?

A: WELL I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY LIKE NIGERIA, SHOW CONCERN FOR WHAT IS CLEARLY SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN INTRUSION INTO A PURELY AFRICAN CONFLICT. THE DIMENSIONS OF THAT INTRUSION ARE GROWING, AND THERE IS ALMOST EVERY DAY DATA WHICH SHOWS AN INCREASE IN THAT GROWTH. AND AS A CONSEQUENCE IT ONLY BEHOOVES AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH DO NOT
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WISH THEIR CONTINENT TO BECOME AN AREA OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT TO TAKE PEACEFUL INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO TERMINATE THE CONFLICT -- AND IN THAT CONTEXT TO ALSO TERMINATE THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN FORCES ENGAGED

IN THAT CONFLICT. THE CUBAN PRESENCE RIGHT NOW IN ETHIOPIA IS BETWEEN 10 AND 11,000 MEN. THIS IS A NOT NEGLIGIBLE INCREASE OVER THE MOST RECENT FIGURES. THEY ARE BEING ORGANIZED INTO TWO INFANTRY BRIGADES AND A MECHANIZED BRIGADE AND THEY ARE CURRENTLY TAKING PART IN THE HOSTILITIES. WE ESTIMATE THAT PROBABLY SOMEWHERE AROUND 400 TANKS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE SOVIETS, ABOUT 50 MIGS HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIETS, AND A SOVIET GENERAL BY THE NAME OF PETROV IS IN DIRECT COMMAND OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE HARAR COMBAT AREA. THIS IS DEFINITELY AN EXTERNAL FOREIGN INTRUSION INTO A PURELY REGIONAL AFRICAN CONFLICT, AND IT DOES NOT SERVE THE INTEREST OF AFRICA TO BE THE OBJECT OF SUCH EXTERNAL INTRUSION.

THUS, WHEN IN NIGERIA WE WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO CONSULT WITH THE NIGERIANS ABOUT THE BEST WAYS TO BE APPLIED

IN ORDER TO TERMINATE THIS CONFLICT. YOU KNOW THAT OUR POSITION IS THAT SOMALIA OUGHT TO WITHDRAW TO ITS TERRITORIAL FRONTIERS, THAT THE INVASION OF ETHIOPIA OUGHT TO BE TERMINATED, THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE PEACEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS, PREFERABLY BY THE OAU, AND IN THAT CONTEXT THE FOREIGN INTRUSION, NOTABLY THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTRUSION, OUGHT TO BE ALSO TERMINATED BY THE DEPARTURE OF THOSE FORCES.

Q: DOES BLACK AFRICA SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE CUBANS?

A: BLACK AFRICA OVER THE YEARS HAS SHOWN GREAT SENSITIVITY TO THE INTRUSION OF FOREIGNERS INTO THE AFRICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINENT. I THINK WHAT HAS COMPLICATED THIS ISSUE IS THE FACT THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WAS VIOLATED BY SOMALIA AND, AS YOU KNOW, AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. IT IS THIS VIOLATION WHICH HAS COMPLICATED THE QUESTION OF AFRICAN RESPONSE. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT AFRICANS DO NOT WISH AFRICAN PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE INTRUSION OF FOREIGN MILITARY POWER. AND THEY EVEN LESS DESIRE TRANSFORMATION OF PURELY AFRICAN CONFLICTS INTO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS.

Q: DO YOU MEAN A SOVIET GENERAL IS ACTUALLY COMMANDING TROOPS?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: ISN'T THAT UNUSUAL?

A: IT IS RATHER UNUSUAL.

Q: DID YOU SAY HE WAS COMMANDING TROOPS IN A PARTICULAR REGION?

A: HE IS PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE HARAR AREA.

Q: IF ONE OF THE US CLOSE ALLIES IN AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE WERE INVADED AND REQUESTED SUPPORT, ARE YOU SAYING US WOULD NOT GIVE THAT SUPPORT?

A: WELL I'M NOT REALLY SURE I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION. INVADED BY WHOM? WHERE? WHAT? HOW?
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Q: I THOUGHT YOU WERE SETTING UP A PARALLEL.

A: WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFLICTS. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT EXTERNAL POWERS SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN THEM. THE AFRICANS HAVE MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING. AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING. THERE IS AN AFRICAN INSTITUTION CALLED THE OAU WHICH CAN MEDIATE AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AND WE WOULD PREFER THAT SUCH PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED BY THE AFRICANS INSTEAD OF BECOMING BONES OF CONTENTION BETWEEN NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THAT'S OUR BASIC POSITION.

Q: THE LETTER FROM THE ETHIOPIAN PRESIDENT?

A: WE ARE VERY PLEASED BY THE ASSURANCES THAT WE RECEIVED FROM CHAIRMAN MENGISTU THAT THE SOMALI FRONTIER WILL NOT BE CROSSED. WE TAKE THESE ASSURANCES VERY SERIOUSLY, AND WITH THESE ASSURANCES IN MIND WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING THE SOMALIS TO TERMINATE THEIR PRESENCE IN THE OGADEN AND TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL FRONTIER AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF TERMINATING THE CONFLICT -- AND ALSO OBTAINING IN THAT CONTEXT THE DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS.

Q: WOULD YOU DRAW ANY PARALLEL BETWEEN THE CURRENT SOVIET ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA AND THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIET NAM?

A: I DON'T WANT TO DRAW ANY ANALOGIES. I WOULD PREFER OTHERS TO DRAW THE ANALOGIES AND ALSO PERHAPS THE HISTORICAL LESSON?

Q: YOU DID SAY THAT THE SOMALIS HAD INVADED?

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A: SURE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SOMALIS VIOLATED THE ETHIOPIAN FRONTIER AND THEREBY VIOLATED THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. THIS IS OUR POSITION. IT HAS BEEN OUR POSITION. IT WAS STATED VERY EXPLICITLY BY SECRETARY VANCE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY SUPPORT THAT VIOLATION. OUR CONCERN IS THAT THAT VIOLATION IS BREEDING CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE

BEING EXPLOITED BY NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL

APPROVED BY:EUUR/WE:MR. ROWELL

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INFO RUFHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0000

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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FOL STATE 048666 SENT ACTION ABU DHABI ADDIS ABABA AMMAN
BAGHDAD BONN CAIRO DAMASCUS DAR ES SALAAM DJIBOUTI DOHA HAVANA
ISLAMABAD JIDDA KHARTOUM KUWAIT LAGOS LIBREVILLE LONDON
MANAMA MOGADISCIO MOSCOW MUSCAT NEW DELHI NAIROBI PARIS
ROME SANA TEHRAN TEL AVIV TRIPOLI USUN USNATO FEB 24, 1978
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, BRIEFING MATERIALS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWHITING:AB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0926
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3480878
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HORN BRIEFING BY DR. BRZEZINSKI AT THE FEBRUARY 24 WHITE HOUSE NOON DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
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Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49b2b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014